



ELK GROVE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Fire ■ Emergency Medical Services ■ Parks & Recreation

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release – March 1, 2004

Elk Grove CSD Fire Department News Release: HOUSE FIRE IN ELK GROVE DISPLACES FAMILY OF FOUR

Type of Emergency: Structure Fire **Date/Time of Incident:** 02/29/04, 1458 hrs.

Location: 8639 Wilmot Court

Incident Number: 022790 **# of Alarms & Times:** 2 Alarms -- 2nd at 1500 hrs.

Summary of Dispatch Report and Incident Size Up Upon Arrival:

Elk Grove Community Services District (CSD) Fire Department crews from Fire Station 76 were the first to report and respond to a column of smoke south of Fire Station 76. A single alarm structure assignment was assigned at 1458 hrs. The column originated from a home on Wilmot Court in the neighborhood of Camden Passage. Subsequent phone calls to the Sacramento Regional Fire/EMS Communications Center (9-1-1 Call Center) reporting visible flames emitting from the home. The responding Battalion Chief added a second alarm assignment while en route at 1500 hrs. Upon arrival, (1503 hrs.) Engine 76 reported a well-involved two-story, single-family structure and an adjacent single family home with wood shake roofing was threatened.

Summary of Incident Operations:

Firefighters removed fencing and began attacking the fire from the rear yard. An engine company made entry into the home and discovered heavy smoke that had already reached the floor. That company conducted a search of the home and found no occupants inside. The windows to the upper story were broken to improve ventilation and an interior fire attack was initiated on the first and second floors. Support beams to the second story were badly burned and posed a risk of collapse. Remaining fire on the second floor and the attic space was extinguished from the exterior and inside on the lower level. An extensive overhaul operation was conducted and some of the family's personal belongings were salvaged and relocated to a neighbors house. Elk Grove CSD firefighters were assisted with fire suppression and overhaul operations by companies from the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District and the Sacramento Fire Department.

The family of four who lived there were not home at the time of the fire. There were no injuries. Friends have provided shelter and other means of support for the displaced family thus far. Donations to support their fire recovery are being accepted by the Greater Faith Church of Sacramento. For donation inquiries, contact the church at (916) 392-9692.

Cause & Damage Information:

The cause of this incident remains under investigation. The structure sustained heavy smoke and fire damage. Minor damage was also sustained to the home next door. Damages to the primary structure

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are estimated in excess of \$500,000 for structure and contents. Elk Grove CSD's Fire Investigation Unit has requested assistance with the investigation from the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Additional information about the investigation is not available at this time. The investigation is expected to take at least several days.

Incident Resources:

Number of Fire Engines: 6
Trucks: 2
Medic Units: 2
Specialized Equipment (if any): Mobile Arson Unit
Number of Firefighters: 28
Number of Chief Officers & Support Personnel: 6
Incident Commander: Battalion Chief Richard Holmes
Mutual Aid Assisting Agencies: Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, Sacramento Fire Department
Investigating Agency: Elk Grove CSD Fire Department

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